

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Description of amendments

Claims 13 and 14 are now pending and under examination. Applicant has amended claim 14 and cancelled claims 1, 2, 7-10, and 12. No new matter has been added.

Interview summary

Applicant's attorney greatly appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Spisich during the course of a telephone interview conducted on December 30, 2004. In the interview, the patentability of claim 14 was discussed. In accordance with the discussion in the interview, Applicant has amended claim 14.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 7-10, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iyoshi (U.S. Patent 6,572,142) in view of Steffens (U.S. Patent 5,626,359). The rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of the rejected claims.

Patentability of claim 14

Claim 14 was not mentioned in the Office Action. However, claim 14, at least as amended, is patentable for the same reasons that claim 13 was allowed. These reasons were set forth on page 5 of the Office Action.

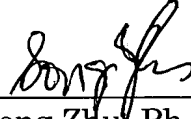
In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Application No. 10/051,390
Reply dated January 4, 2005
Response to Office Action dated October 19, 2004

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (CAM #080437.50738US).

January 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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